Delegation of powers of customs authori- I ties to the development commissioners of export processing zones

920. SHRI S. MADHAVAN; Will the r Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken to delegate the powers of the Customs authorities to the Development Commissioners of Export Processing Zones in the Free Trade Zones to help the export units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): A proposal of this Ministry for delegation of powers of Collector Customs and Central Excise to the Development Commissioners of the Export Processing Zone has not been agreed to.

Approval of international jute council for jute production

921. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Jute Council has approved funding of projects relating to the development of non-woven products made from jute and jute blends and test marketing; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The International Jute Council in its Thirteenth Session has approved the project, "Development of Non-woven Products from Jute and jute blend and Test Marketing" with an outlay of US $430, 530 on partially funded basis. The British Textile Technology Group (BTTG), Manchester will execute the Project. The available _^ facilities in the relevant research institutions of the producing countries will be utilized for the project to the maximum possible extent for collaborative research activities. The field trials with jute wastes would also include low grades of jute without affecting the total outlay.

Credit facilities to fishing companies

922. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fishing: companies that have availed credit facilities from the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited and from the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee so far;

(b) what is the amount of total credit extended;

(c) whether it is a fact that practi cally all the fishing companies are in arrears to the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited;

(d) what are the names of the companies which are paying interest and repaying loans promptly and have **no** arreiars as on date;

(e) what concessions are extended to well managed companies having no arrears as on date while considering concessions to sick/defaulling companies; and

(f) whether Government Plan to intro duce a system to reward the well manag ed companies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) It has been reported by SCICI that they have extended credit facilities to 22 fishing companies to the tune of Rs. 77. 88 crores since their inception. The erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) had extended credit facilities to 85 fishing companies to the tune of Rs. 103. 61 crores.

(c) 5 companies assisted by Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) are in arrears and have approached SCICI for reschedulement, 60 companies assisted by the erstwhile SDFC are in default.